

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DEPARTMENT
e-NEWSLETTER

COMMUNICATION FROM LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



January - March, 2012



LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (LELAP) UPDATE AND NEWS

LELAP OUTREACH UPDATE— The LELAP Outreach classes will start in October 2012. Suggestions for the curriculum are welcome.

LELAP REGULATIONS WORK GROUP UPDATE— The LELAP Regulations Work Group met for the last time on March 29, 2012 to discuss the proposed changes to the regulations. LELAP thanks all who participated. The revised regulations will be reformatted to meet the rule-making requirement. Laboratories will be notified of the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations changes after the Notice of Intent has been published in the Louisiana Register.

LELAP INTERPRETATIONS— Please see the [LELAP Interpretations](#) on our webpage.

OTHER BUSINESS:

TNI EVALUATION — On March 20, 2012, LDEQ applied for renewal of its recognition as a NELAP accreditation body.

TNI BASIC ASSESSOR TRAINING — Laboratories that are interested in Basic Assessor training may obtain information from the TNI webpage for [training classes](#) held in different states.

CLARIFICATION OF ACCREDITATION ISSUES

FISCAL YEAR — In Louisiana, the fiscal year starts July 1 and ends June 30. The certificate and scope for Fiscal Year 2012 ends on June 30, 2012. The certificate and scope for Fiscal Year 2013 (FY 2013) starts on July 1, 2012.

RENEWAL APPLICATION — Laboratories are required to renew their accreditation every three years. The Fiscal Division of LDEQ will send laboratories due to renew their accreditation an invoice for the renewal fee of \$660 around April in addition to the annual fees. Laboratories are also required to submit an electronic application to LELAP with the required documents as specified in the application for the (triennial) renewal.

ALL APPLICATIONS — Laboratories are advised to select only those method (revision or edition) and analyte combinations identified in the laboratory standard operating procedures or quality assurance plan when completing the electronic application. If the methods or the analytes are not in the quality system documents, the application will be denied. Application fees are not refundable.

SIGNED ATTESTATION OF COMPLIANCE FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN — The assessment process is not complete until the laboratory's corrective action plans have been approved and LELAP has received the signed attestation of compliance of the corrective action plan form.

CONTRACTOR ASSESSMENTS — Laboratories assessed by contract assessors are reminded to send electronic and hard copies of the corrective action plan to both the **contractor** and **LELAP**.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP)— Laboratories are allowed two submittals to correct the findings in an assessment. The original CAP and the revised CAP should be in one document with the revised portion clearly identified. This document with the combined CAPs is submitted to LELAP for approval.

SUPPORT METHODS — The support methods that do not measure the reporting parameters are not required to be accredited. For example, if the method states to check temperature and pH of the samples before analysis, but the temperature and pH readings are not to be reported to LDEQ, these parameters are not required to be accredited.

LELAP STATISTICS: In-state accredited labs— 51
Out-of-state accredited labs — 153

PLEASE CONTACT THE LELAP STAFF IF YOUR LABORATORY NEEDS ANY ASSISTANCE. [CLICK HERE](#) TO OBTAIN THE LELAP CONTACT INFORMATION

We solicit your questions, comments, problems, and/or recommendations for this newsletter. Please send them to LabAccreditationProgram@la.gov or call 225-219-3247.



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